



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

January, 2014

REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA. **Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.**

“Up Close and Personal” Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturday, January 4th @9:30 am; Sunday, January 5th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, January 11th @9:30 am; Sunday, January 12th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, January 18th @9:30 am; Sunday, January 19th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, January 25th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, January 26th @ 1:00 pm

Join a refuge ranger for an “up close and personal” tour of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will provide an “insider’s” perspective of the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 10 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation.*** *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. ***Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.***

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 11th at 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members’ work), intra-club mentoring and training,

photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. **Preregistration is NOT required to attend this program.** Please call (978) 465-5753 for more information about the Photographic Society.

Learn About Snowy Owl Conservation:

A Special Presentation by Norman Smith of Massachusetts Audubon

Saturday, January 25th at 1:30 pm

As birders and nature photographers already know, this is turning out to be a banner year for snowy owl sightings on the Refuge. But where do these magnificent animals come from? And why is their seasonal occurrence in this area so variable from year to year? And what to do about the "snowies" that are attracted to the tundra-like landscape that surrounds the runways at Logan International Airport? These compelling questions, and many more, will be addressed by Massachusetts Audubon's Norman Smith, who will present a narrated slide presentation in the Refuge visitor center auditorium on Saturday, January 25th beginning at 1:30 pm. Smith has been heading up the effort to trap and relocate snowy owls from Logan for many years. In the process of that work, he has also tagged and tracked many of these owls. He'll share what he has learned during this very special presentation. **Preregistration is not required for this free public program.**